

this set of ideas we see the struggle between the Idea that unrestrained sex indulgence produces abundance and the idea that it produces excess, lewdness, and harm. We can still trace to the metaphorical use of "mother/\* <<sup>f</sup> father," and "son/" and also to the use of the same words to express the possession of a quality In a high degree, or a tie of destiny, some of the most important concepts of our own religion.

597. Survivals of sacral harlotry. Analogous customs in Hindostan. The early Portuguese travelers to the East found sacral harlotry in Cochin China. All virgins of noble birth were bound by vows from infancy. Otherwise no honorable man would marry them.<sup>1</sup> Modern Egyptian dancing girls, Ghowazy or Barmeky, had a tradition that they belonged to a race by themselves. They kept up isolation and peculiar customs. Each was compelled to surrender to a stranger and then to marry a man of her own group.<sup>2</sup> " Probably Heaven and Earth are the most ancient of all Vedic gods, and from their fancied union, as husband and wife, the other deities and the whole universe were at first supposed to spring." " The whole world is embodied in the woman. . . . Women are gods. Women are vitality/" say the Vedic Scriptures. In Manu<sup>3</sup> "the self-existent god is described as dividing his own substance and becoming half male and half female." <sup>4</sup> A competent author, who wrote at the beginning of the nineteenth century, says that the women attached to the temples in Hindostan sang and danced twice a day, the songs being about mythological subjects and indecent according to the current mores of everyday life. Vows play a very important part in the Hindoo system of sacral harlotry. A woman, with

the consent of her husband, vowed her unborn child, if a girl, to the temple, in order to get an easy confinement. It was no disgrace to a family to have a daughter living this life. Barren women visited remote temples, under a vow of self-devotion, in order to bear children. They were victimized by the priests. At festivals of Vishnu priests tried to enlist girls in the attendant

<sup>1</sup> OUveira Martins, *As Racas ffumanas*, II, 181.

<sup>2</sup> Burckhardt, *Arabic Proverbs*•, 145. <sup>3</sup> *Laws*, I, 5.

\* Monier-Williams, *Brahmanism and Hinduism*-) 181-183.